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THE CAUCUS

For Producers, Writers & Directors

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January 31, 1995

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 "M" Street N.W. #814
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

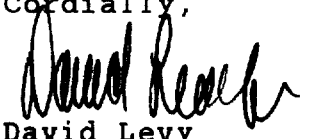
I know that you are acquainted with this organization of 239 key members of the creative community out here, not only through our frequent contact in the past with Mr. Quello, but also with your acquaintance with our Co-Chair, Charles W. Fries.

Our Chair, William Blinn, an acclaimed writer/producer of renown (he created EIGHT IS ENOUGH, STARKY & HUTCH, etc., and wrote the well remembered TV feature, BRIAN'S SONG) and the members of our Steering Committee invite your attention to one of our 21 key Aims & Objectives:

THE CAUCUS believes that broadcasters (television stations) should devote at least one hour each day to educational programs for children.

We, a group of very successful producers, writers and directors of commercial television, feel that this particular Aim among our others merits the full support of the FCC. Its implementation is a small "price" for TV stations whose licenses are granted without the requirement of any fees to the people of the United States. And, of course, the stations that comply with the law already in place should find appropriate sponsors to cover the bulk of the costs of such programming, or, perhaps, even profit from it.

Cordially,



David Levy
Executive Director

cc: Edward Blau

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

January 31, 1995

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We, the undersigned organization made up of parents, teachers, psychologists, health care workers, consumer advocates, and others who care deeply about children, are writing to urge you to strengthen the guidelines for the Children's Television Act.

Millions of American children grow up facing crises such as hunger, poverty, family problems and violence which leave them ill-prepared to learn in school. Millions more are educated in underfunded and troubled school systems. The number of school drop-outs and illiterate high school graduates increases dramatically each year. These trends imperil our nation's health, security and future.

Broadcast television can play an unprecedented role in nourishing the minds of our nation's children. To quote from the 1974 FCC Policy Statement, "There are many imaginative and exciting ways in which the medium can be used to further a child's understanding of a wide range of areas: history, science, literature, the environment, drama, music, fine arts, human relations, other cultures and languages, and basic skills such as reading and mathematics which are crucial to a child's development."

We know that broadcasters have the talent to create children's shows which are as educational as they are entertaining. Yet, today's children have greater access to sensationalistic talk shows, violent cartoons, and adult sitcoms than they do to programming designed to enrich their minds.

The FCC needs to strengthen the guidelines of the Children's Television Act by establishing real policies designed to safeguard the interests of our children. These should include a clearer definition of "educational" programming and a requirement that television stations air at least one hour a day of 30-minute educational shows between 7 a.m.-10 p.m. in regularly scheduled time slots.

No other regulatory body is in a position to make this happen. America's children are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth

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January 31, 1995

Reed Hundt,
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Chairman Hundt,

Come. Come. Many of us in Los Angeles represent networks. But we are not likely to let them push us around the way they seem to have pushed the FCC around. In particular, you appear to be caving in to pressure from broadcasters when you ignore the intent of the Children's Television Act of 1990 which requires every station to air a significant amount of programming for children. Where is your conscience, sense of duty and desire to stand for something?

Very truly yours,


Laura K. Christa

LKC:jms

OFFICE/MISC/hundt,lr

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